

LOCAL LAW 28 of 2019: TEMPORARY BUSINESS ACCESSORY SIGN PROGRAM

■ Civil Penalties

As of February 9, 2019, DOB has not imposed civil penalties for work without a permit violations for business signs that neither exceed 150 square feet in area nor 1,200 pounds in weight. Businesses that received these violations on or after December 28, 2017 and have not paid the penalties, may submit a waiver request to DOB by submitting a **L2 Form** at a DOB Borough office.

■ Moratorium on the Issuance of Violations

From February 9, 2019, through February 9, 2021, DOB will not issue violations for business signs that existed on or before February 9, 2019, unless the sign is not eligible for the moratorium for reasons such as being an imminent threat to public health or safety. Respondents must continue appear before OATH for hearings related to all violations issued.

■ Reduction in Permit Filing Fees

From August 7, 2019 through February 9, 2020, DOB will waive 75% of the filing fees for sign permits for respondents who received a DOB sign violation if (1) the summons or violation was for a business sign; and (2) the penalty imposed as a result of a hearing held at OATH's Hearings Division (formerly ECB) was entered as a judgment in court; and (3) the judgment amount was paid between June 1, 2006, and February 9, 2019.

NOTE: DOB will continue responding to 311 complaints to determine whether the business sign is eligible for this moratorium.

■ As of August 2019:

- ▶ The **Department of Finance (DOF)** has established a 6-month program to allow businesses to resolve outstanding judgments for business storefront sign violations. Get more information at nyc.gov/awningamnesty2019.
- ▶ DOB has established a 6-month program to provide technical assistance to businesses that received business sign violations between June 1, 2006 and February 9, 2019 and paid applicable penalties. In-person assistance is available at DOB's weekly **Homeowners Night** in each borough office every Tuesday from 4:00pm to 7:00pm.
- ▶ DOB, DOF and the **Department of Small Business Services** will work together to ensure businesses are aware of applicable business sign laws and regulations and to publicize the aforementioned temporary programs.

■ Taskforce

A task force will be convened for the purpose of exploring issues related to business storefront sign regulations in the New York City Construction Codes and the New York City Zoning Resolution.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Local Law 28 of 2019 – www1.nyc.gov/assets/buildings/local_laws/ll28of2019.pdf
- Zoning Districts and Regulations – nyc.gov/planning
- Installing a Sign – www1.nyc.gov/site/buildings/business/signs.page
- Correct Sign Violations – www1.nyc.gov/site/buildings/safety/rectify-sign-violations.page